

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 2811

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR OAU SF RH LI

SUBJECT: OAU: RHODESIA AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

REF: (A) ADDIS 2251 (NOTAL); (B) LAGOS 2092 (NOTAL)

1. IN DISCUSSION WITH EMBOFF MARCH 6, A/SECGEN FOR ECONOMIC AND
SOCIAL AFFAIRS, OSANYA-NYYNEQUE SHED MORE LIGHT ON OAU DEBATE OF
SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES,NYYNEQUE STATED THAT TANZANIAN FOREIGN
MINISTER MALECELAJS REPORT OF TANZANIAN-ZAMBIAN INITIATIVES IN
RHODESIA HAD INDEED BEEN WELL RECEIVED BY THE CM. IN RESPONSE
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TO A QUESTION, NYYNEQUE DISAGREED WITH THE VIEW EXPRESSED PARA 1

REFTEL THAT THE LESOTHO RESOLUTION ON SOUTHERN AFRICA WAS AN EXPRESSION OF OAU DISAGREEMENT WITH TANZANIAN-ZAMBIAN INITIATIVES IN RHODESIA. ACCORDING TO NYNEQUE, MOST OAU MEMBERS WELCOMED THE TANZANIAN-ZAMBIAN INITIATIVES WHICH APPEARED TO BE BEARING AT LEAST SOME FRUIT. NYNEQUE'S VIEWS TEND TO CORROBORATE NIGERIAN STATEMENT REPORTED PARAS 1 AND 4, REF B.

2. THE LESOTHO RESOLUTION, HOWEVER, FOCUSED NOT ON RHODESIA ALONE BUT THE EFFECT OF THE RHODESIAN ISSUES AND SOUTH AFRICAN INVOLVEMENT ON THE ENTIRE AFRICAN REGION. NYNEQUE COMMENTED THAT THE LESOTHO RESOLUTION WAS ACTUALLY OUT OF PLACE BECAUSE IT DEALT WITH ISSUES GREATER THAN RHODESIA ONLY.

3. ALTHOUGH THE LESOTHO RESOLUTION WAS NOT MEANT TO BE A CRITICISM OF TANZANIA OR ZAMBIA (OR MALECELA PERSONALLY), MALECELA "OVER-REACTED." IN THE ENSUING DISCUSSION, HOWEVER, MALECELA CALMED DOWN AND IT WAS DECIDED TO CONVENE AN EXTRAORDINARY OAU SESSION IN DAR IN APRIL TO DISCUSS THE ENTIRE SOUTHERN AFRICAN QUESTION.

4. NYNEQUE EMPHASIZED THAT HE BELIEVED THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN DISCUSSION WAS NOT RPT NOT AN ATTEMPT BY EITHER ARAB MEMBERS OR THE OAU SECRETARIAT TO GAIN CONTROL OF RHODESIAN NEGOTIATIONS.

5. THE CM HAD BEEN NON-PLUSSED WHEN THE LIBERIAN AMBASSADOR READ PRESIDENT TOLBERT'S MESSAGE CONCERNING THE VORSTERS' VISIT TO LIBERIA. THE MESSAGE WAS PRESENTED AS A REPORT TO ALL OAU MEMBERS AND, IN FACT, SHOULD BE VIEWED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE REPORTS ON THE VORSTERS' VISIT VARIOUS LIBERIAN DELEGATIONS HAVE BEEN MAKING TO AFRICAN HEADS OF STATE THROUGHOUT AFRICA. AT THE TIME OF THE CM THE DELEGATIONS HAD NOT COMPLETED THEIR SCHEDULED VISITS AND SO LIBERIA HAD TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF THIS CENTRALIZED AFRICAN FORM TO PRESENT ITS REPORT.

6. NYNEQUE SAID THAT THE LIBERIAN STATEMENT DESCRIBED THE VORSTERS' VISIT AS AN EFFORT BY "CURIOUS" LIBERIAN TO GET A BETTER PICTURE OF CONDITIONS OF AFRICANS IN SOUTH AFRICA. THE BURDEN OF THE STATEMENT WAS THAT NOW LIBERIA BETTER UNDERSTOOD THOSE CONDITIONS. UNFORTUNATELY, NYNEQUE SAID, IF ONE READ BETWEEN THE LINES THE LIBERIANS WERE ACTUALLY TALKING ABOUT DETENTE
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WITH SOUTH AFRICA -- A POSITION CONTRARY TO THAT TAKEN BY THE REST OF THE OAU. THE UNANIMOUS OAU POSITION CALLS FOR SIGNIFICANT INTERNAL CHANGES IN SOUTH AFRICA AND REJECTS THE LIVE AND LET LIVE APPROACH THAT LIBERIA SEEMS TO HAVE TAKEN. IT IS NYNEQUE'S OPINION THAT LIBERIA, "WHICH IS IN A TOUGH FINANCIAL POSITION," HAS TENTATIVELY OPENED RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA BECAUSE THE LATTER IS A POSSIBLE SOURCE OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.
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